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Application No.: 09/887,970
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PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

This is being filed concurrently with an Appeal brief to reduce the issues for Appeal purposes.

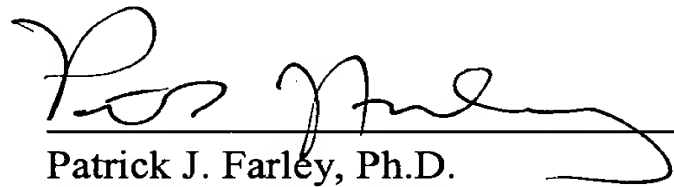
Claim 3 was erroneously designated "withdrawn" in the last response. The claim, however, was discussed in the remarks and it is clear that the Examiner considered that the claim was under consideration. Applicants herein change the designation of claim 3 in the listing of claims as "original."

Claims 7-28, 30-34 and 38-40 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof, but to narrow the issues for appeal and expedite allowance of the case.

Applicants earnestly submit that all the claims are in condition for allowance and urge prompt allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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